

(Holy) Ghost Stories

Small Group Questions: Part 2: Power for Living

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Read

Matthew 5:17; Acts 1:3–8, 2:1 and 10:38; 1 Corinthians 2:4–5 and 5:7; Ephesians 2:8–9; Romans 8:9; and Isaiah 30:21

Reflect

After the Resurrection, Jesus presented himself to his disciples and many others, and spoke to them of the gift his Father promised—to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. How do you view the Holy Spirit? What was your first exposure to the Holy Spirit?

Pastor Josh Surratt explains how the Jewish holidays are fulfilled in the New Testament:

1. Passover: salvation
 - a. What was sacrificed at Passover? How and when was the sacrifice prepared? What did it cover?
 - b. How does Jesus fulfill the Passover?
 - i. Rather than *cover* our sins, what did Jesus do?
2. Pentecost: Power to make a difference.
 - a. Pentecost occurs 50 days after Passover, and on the Jewish calendar it's known as the Festival of Weeks. It commemorates when Moses receives the law on Mt. Sinai, and a cloud descends with loud noise and fire—and 3,000 people die, already breaking the law and putting idols before God. Compare this to how the Holy Spirit comes. How many people are saved, and where does God write his law?

What kind of power does the Holy Spirit have:

3. The Holy Spirit empowers me to live righteously.
 - a. Would you say you're a rule follower? How often do you think you're probably acting out of obedience rather than because you want to follow God's law?
 - b. When have you felt your desires transformed? What do you attribute it to?
 - c. When have you discerned the Holy Spirit's prompting? How did you react?
 - d. Where do you go first when needing wisdom and advice?
4. The Holy Spirit empowers me to live supernaturally.
 - a. Do you believe the Holy Spirit is active today? Explain.
 - b. What have you been able to accomplish that you know you couldn't have done without God's power in your life?
 - c. Are you open to receiving the power of God? What might hold you back?
5. The Holy Spirit empowers me to live on mission.
 - a. What do you think God has for you to do?
 - b. When has the Holy Spirit's goal differed from what you expected or wanted? What was the result?
 - c. How has following the Holy Spirit's prompting, then emboldened you to help others?

Respond: Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?